

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: August 8, 2003

Contact: Ernie Seneca
Phone: 919/733-5612

GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES \$6.8 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS IN BLADENBORO, FAISON AND NEW BERN

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that more than \$6.8 million in high-unit cost grants will be offered to Bladenboro, Faison and New Bern to fund improvements to their wastewater treatment systems.

“Rehabilitating and upgrading the infrastructure of our towns and cities is key to economic growth and prosperity,” Easley said. “These projects will also lead to enhanced wastewater collection and treatment, and protection of our rivers and streams.”

Funding is made available from the Clean Water Critical Needs Bond Act of 1998, and the N.C. Division of Water Quality administers the program.

New Bern will be offered \$2.5 million to add two pump stations, about 15,000 linear feet of 12-inch force main and 12,000 linear feet of 30-inch force main to its reuse quality water line.

Faison will use a \$2.6 million grant to upgrade and expand the capacity of its wastewater treatment plant from 170,000-gallons-per-day to 255,000-gallons-per-day. The town will also build a third facultative lagoon and expand the existing land application spray field.

Bladenboro plans to use its \$1,729,000 grant to rehabilitate and slipline parts of its sewer collection system and to develop a land application system to remove a portion of its effluent discharge from Bryant Swamp in the Lumber River basin.

In 1987, the General Assembly created the North Carolina Revolving Loan and Grant Program to provide state financing to units of local government for wastewater facility construction. Funding for this program, which is managed by DWQ’s Construction Grants and Loans Section, is dependent upon legislative appropriations.

The last infusion of funds came from the 1998 act and provided \$238 million in grants for wastewater system improvements. As part of this program, high-unit cost grants are available for up to \$3 million per applicant over three fiscal years. The grants are designed to make projects more affordable by keeping the costs passed on to the system’s users at a reasonable level.

###